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British Board of Education Syllabus, and will be helpful, furthermore, to men and women who have no leisure to follow the technical descriptions given in survey monographs and ordinary text-books, but who would like to know more of the past history of the earth and have some guidance in field observation.

The book is commended by some of its special features, such as the simple experiments that are given throughout, the bold-face headlines in connection with the practical work explaining what principles each illustrates, and the systematic arrangement of the stratigraphical portion. Series of questions are given at the ends of chapters. This is one of the best of the elementary text-books, and it has special claims upon the attention of those who do not enjoy the advantage of a teacher in acquiring some knowledge of geology.

Statistical Abstract of the World. By Henry Gannett. viii and 84 pp., Index. John Wiley & Sons, New York, 1907. (Price, 75 cents.)

This little volume is filled with tables of statistics relating to the different peoples of the earth, products of the soil, mines, and fisheries, their manufactures, means of transportation, commerce, and social conditions. The tables are methodically arranged, the figures are the latest obtainable, and the fact that Mr. Gannett compiled the information inspires confidence in its accuracy. A copious index makes it easy to refer to any desired table.

Mr. Gannett says in his preface: "Statistics of the most recent single year are given in preference to the mean of several years as being, on the whole, nearest the truth." It is doubtful if this view is shared by many statisticians. It is well enough in this book, which aims to give only the latest information. In a larger work it would certainly be desirable to give an idea of average and comparative conditions, and this could best be attained by showing the means of several series of years. As a volume for handy reference this statistical abstract will serve a very useful purpose.

Regierung und Nutzbarmachung der Samoanischen Inseln. Von Hermann Fiedler. 12 pp. Wilhelm Süsserott, Berlin, 1906.

This is a plain, business-like discussion, chiefly of the economic conditions of the German colony, from which the author draws conclusions that seem reasonable. The United States harbour of Pago Pago is better than that of the German port Apia; but in very stormy weather steamers will not risk accident at the entrance to Pago Pago, and so carry the Samoan mails to Auckland. The sea journey between Pago Pago and Apia occupies ten hours. The commercial communications between the islands of the group are unsatisfactory, and fares and freights are too high. The author says that the interests of the German colony demand the establishment of German steamship connections, with a Government subsidy and the admission, duty free, of articles of necessity.

Samoa is connected with the outer world by one American and one New Zealand line, with irregular visits from a few other Australian, American, German, and Norwegian vessels. America and New Zealand supply most of the imported necessities of life. Most of the exported island products are sent to these two countries. The American line calls at Pago Pago, and not at Apia.

The prestige of the whites is not enhanced by the fact that the natives of the German islands regard themselves as subject to the Government of Mataapa, though they are living under the protection of Germany.